

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-17 (canceled).

18. (new) A ventilation device for passing air therethrough, and including an upstream side and a downstream side, the ventilation device including a passive fireblocking means comprising:

at least one grill body on the upstream side comprising a plurality of evenly distributed openings permitting air flow therethrough, the grille body being formed of or coated with an intumescent material; and

adjacent to and downstream from the at least one grille body, at least one thermally conductive metal mesh permitting air flow therethrough,

wherein the intumescent material swells when exposed to sufficient heat to close the evenly distributed openings, and the metal mesh has a capacity for heat storage.

19. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, wherein the metal mesh is three-dimensional.

20. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, wherein the metal mesh is rectangular in cross-section.

21. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, wherein the metal mesh comprises metal pipes filled with liquid, minerals or mixtures thereof to provide heat storage capacity.

22. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, wherein the metal mesh comprises stones or steel pellets to provide heat storage capacity.

23. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, wherein the metal mesh comprises honeycomb-patterned sheet-metal.

24. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, wherein the grille body and the metal mesh are arranged in a frame.

25. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 24, wherein an insulating material is provided between the grille body and the metal mesh to serve as a thermal break.

26. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, wherein the grille body is oriented below the metal mesh and positioned towards a potential source of flame.

27. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, in a form of a fire blanket or curtain.

28. (new) Fireblocking ventilation device according to claim 18, wherein the intumescant material comprises a hard phase high density polyethylene and a soft phase comprising at least one of chlorinated polyethylene and silicone rubber.